

1. (Twice Amended) A filter module which defines filtrate and unfiltered material spaces, and which comprises:

a plurality of filter regions formed of deep bed filter material, and  
a plurality of draining layers which include a draining layer material  
disposed between adjacent ones of said filter regions, wherein

- (i) a first type of said draining layers includes sealing elements disposed at a side thereof adjacent said unfiltered material space, and flow elements disposed at an opposite side thereof adjacent said filtrate space, and
- (ii) a second type of said draining layers includes said sealing elements disposed at a side thereof adjacent said filtrate space, and said flow elements disposed at an opposite side thereof adjacent said unfiltered material space, wherein

said filter regions and said first and second types of draining layers are formed into a stack on one another without gaps, such that said first and second types of draining layers alternate relative to one another in said stack so that said sealing elements thereof alternately seal the draining layers from said filtrate and unfiltered material spaces, and said flow elements alternately establish flow paths between said draining layers and said filtrate and unfiltered material spaces, respectively, and wherein

at least one of said sealing elements and flow elements include connectors for establishing mutual connection between the filter regions and the draining layers in the stack.

2. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filter regions include first and second filter layers having respective different degrees of separation disposed one on top of another.

3. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filter regions include first and second filter layers having the same degree of separation disposed one on top of another.

4. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter regions are formed of an absorptive filter material.

5. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter regions include filter materials having different absorption properties.

Please cancel claim 6.

9. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connectors protrude from said sealing elements into said adjacent one of said filter regions.

11. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the draining layer material includes a plastic nonwoven material.

12. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the draining layer material is integral with the sealing and flow elements thereof.

13. (Twice Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing elements include interconnected projections and clips.

14. (Amended) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter and draining layers are planar structures.

Please add the following new claims:

15. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filter regions comprise a plurality of individual filter layers.

16. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least some of the filter layers are formed of a filter material having the same filtration properties.

17. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 15, wherein all of the filter layers are formed of a filter material having the same filtration properties.

18. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least some of the filter layers have different filtration properties as compared to others of said filter layers.

[ Please cancel claim 10, and add the following new claims: ]

19. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flow elements include holes oriented parallel to the plane of the draining layers.

20. (NEW) Filter module as in claim 1, wherein the flow elements include grooves oriented parallel to the plane of the draining layers.

[ Please cancel claim 8, and add the following new claims: ]

21. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing and flow elements are formed as a one part structure with said draining layer material in a leakproof manner.

22. (NEW) Filter module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing and flow elements are joined with said draining layer material in a leakproof manner.

23. (NEW) A filter module which defines filtrate and unfiltered material spaces, and which comprises:

a plurality of filter regions formed of deep bed filter material, and

a plurality of draining layers which include a draining layer material

disposed between adjacent ones of said filter regions, wherein

- (i) a first type of said draining layers includes sealing elements disposed at a side thereof adjacent said unfiltered material space, and flow elements disposed at an opposite side thereof adjacent said filtrate space, and